

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT MEDICARE PART D AND THE AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (ADAP)

What is Medicare Part D (Medicare Rx)?

On January 1, 2006, Medicare will offer a new prescription drug benefit called Medicare Part D (Medicare Rx). All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for this new drug coverage program. This program will offer comprehensive drug coverage for HIV medications in addition to other medications you may be taking.

What if I get help from AHCCCS with my Medicare Part B premiums?

If you currently get help with your Medicare Part B premiums, you also qualify for extra help with the Medicare Part D program. This means that you will not pay premiums, deductibles or co-insurance associated with Part D. You will be responsible for a small co-pay of up to \$5 per prescription. You may select an enhanced Medicare drug plan, but if you do, you may be responsible for additional costs.

- You are already deemed eligible for the extra help.
- If you are unsure if you qualify for the extra help, please call Medicare at (800) 633-4227.
- You must be enrolled in a prescription drug plan by December 31, 2005.
- Starting January 1, 2006, you will no longer receive medications through ADAP. You will receive them through your Medicare Part D plan.

What if I do not get help from AHCCCS with my Medicare Part B premiums and my monthly income is \$1,077 or less?

If you currently are not getting help from AHCCCS with your Medicare Part B premiums and your monthly income is \$1,077 or less, you may be eligible for extra help through Social Security Administration (SSA). This means that you will not pay premiums, deductibles or co-insurance associated with Part D. You will be responsible for a small co-pay of up to \$5 per prescription. You may select an enhanced Medicare drug plan, but if you do, you may be responsible for additional costs.

- If you have not received any information about extra help yet, please call SSA at (800) 772-1213, visit SSA on the Internet at www.socialsecurity.gov or complete an application as soon as possible.
- If you qualify for the extra help, you will no longer receive medications through ADAP. You will receive them through your Medicare Part D plan.

What if I do not get help with my Medicare Part B premiums, my monthly income is greater than \$1,077 and I am an ADAP client?

- If you are currently receiving assistance from the Arizona ADAP, you will be required to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan and provide proof to ADAP that you have done so.
- You also will be required to apply for extra help through SSA and give a copy of the SSA determination letter regarding the extra help to ADAP.
- Once ADAP has proof (copy of your Medicare card indicating you are enrolled in Medicare Part D and a copy of the SSA extra help determination letter), ADAP will assist you by continuing to provide your ADAP medications.

Is Medicare Part D mandatory?

No. However, **all Arizona ADAP clients who do not get help with Medicare Part B premiums and have a monthly income greater than \$1,077 will be required to enroll in Medicare Part D to continue receiving their ADAP medications.**

Keeping up with all the changes in Medicare can leave you with questions. Who can I turn to for further information?

- Your case manager
- SSA for extra help information at (800) 772-1213 or www.socialsecurity.gov
- Medicare at (800) 633-4227 or www.medicare.gov
- HIV/AIDS Law Project at (800) 852-9075, extension 2640
- Medicare classes – see enclosed schedule
- Arizona State Health Insurance Program (SHIP) at (800) 432-4040

11/30/2005